

## CLAIMS FIFTY-FOUR-HOUR LAW WAS KILLED BY DELAY—PROTEST MEETING A SUCCESS

That methods similar to the "jack pot" of other years were used at Springfield to defeat the 54-hour bill was the story told by Miss Agnes Nestor yesterday afternoon at the Garrick Theater at a protest meeting held under the auspices of the Women's Trade Union League.

The theater was packed to the gallery and the audience faced huge streamers on which were printed in bold type the names of the men who voted for and against the shorter-hour law.

After stating that the trade union women have had absolutely no legislation this session, Miss Nestor said the 54-hour bill had been killed through delay.

"The employers insisted upon hearing after hearing," she declared, "and after each hearing they always suggested another one because some member of some particular trade or association had not been able to attend the last hearing.

"Senator Waage insisted that they have a hearing in Chicago so that the merchants in his district might have an opportunity to attend and not lose time by going to Springfield, where we had to go. The bill which was introduced on the 27th of February had, by this time, gone to a subcommittee, and this was the latter part of May.

"Senator Denvir, who was opposed to the bill, saw to it that he was made chairman of the sub-committee and presided, and at the meetings in Chicago he kept wondering whether the bill wasn't aimed to put the small merchants out of business, and wasn't there some influence back of it other than the girls, trying to make it appear that the State street stores were back of it.

"These remarks of Senator Denvir were read into the record. He also told the merchants and other employers that there wasn't anybody

who wanted this bill for shorter hours except the labor organizations, and that they had always brought sufficient force to compel the legislators to pass such legislation in the past, but that he was sure this year we would not get any legislation because the employers had put up such a fight.

"Mr. Taylor, attorney for the employers' association, asked for a postponement of the hearing in the senate and said the employers were opposed to any progress in this legislation. He made the same statement before the labor committee in the senate when the minimum wage bill was up for consideration. He declared that the employers did not want any interference by the state in the operation of their business, that the employers wanted legislative peace.

"The canners' bill, permitting women employes of canning factories to work unlimited hours, was introduced on the 9th of May, reported out of committee and was up for the third reading in senate by the 3d of June. That bill passed the senate and the house at 3:30 in the morning, at a time when the members intending to oppose it were not in their seats. Governor Dunne has since vetoed the bill.

"Andrews of Rockford voted for the canners' bill, against the 54-hour bill and against the minimum wage.

"Bailey of Danville voted consistently against it.

"Beall promised us support and then became absent-minded every time the bill came up and either voted against or not at all.

"Rep. Brady voted against it, and Broderick of Chicago, Clark of South Chicago and Denvir of Chicago. We last saw Denvir at 4 o'clock in the morning leaving the state house after the canning bill passed. He was in conference with the employers and